

# Symington and Dirksen Clash on Red Missiles

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Sen. Stuart Symington, D., Mo., said today the Eisenhower administration believes Russia has perhaps 50 per cent more missiles than the public has been told about.

In a brief, spirited debate, he accused the Administration of talking out of both sides of its mouth—gloomily to Senators in closed-door sessions and optimistically to the American people.

Sen. Symington made his charge after Senate Republican leader Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois wagged a finger at him on the Senate floor and accused him of playing politics with the missile gap issue.

"I object," Sen. Dirksen said, "when it is charged that the Administration is putting an undescent dollar sign in the sky and making it a point of worship."

Sen. Symington, who says he would like to be President but is not an announced candidate

for the Democratic nomination, repeated his charge that "the American people are being misled."

The hour-long debate, before twenty Republican and a dozen Democratic Senators, at times turned bitter and personal. At one point, Sen. Symington arose to demand that Sen. Dirksen face him, while accusing him instead of turning his back to address the Republican side of the chamber.

Sen. Dirksen replied in his mellifluous orator's voice: "But most of the congregation is on this side."

The verbal battle, with other Senators joining in, came a few hours before the Senate Space Committee released previously secret testimony about missiles by Air Force Gen. Nathan F. Twining, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The testimony, taken Feb. 9, showed Gen. Twining admitting he had had incomplete intelligence data when he told the

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committee Jan. 29 that the missile gap had narrowed. At that time, he said, neither he nor Secretary of Defense Thomas G. Gates Jr. had information about how many missiles Russia actually had on launching pads.

The on-launcher figures were presented to the committee Jan. 29 by Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency. It was this testimony which was described by Senators who heard it as "gloomy," whereas the Gates-Twining testimony ten days earlier had been an occasion for optimism.

Sen. Symington said Mr. Dulles' figures prove Russia has a much greater superiority in long-range missiles than the three-to-one lead conceded last year by the Pentagon. Sen. Symington told the Senate:

"In fact, at mid-1960, mid-1961 and mid-1962, the new estimates of the Soviet ratio in ready-to-launch capability averaged between 20 per cent and 30 per cent more than the estimate of last year. . . .

Therefore, my statement stands. The American people are being misled.

"Now, there is a simple way to clear up this confusion, namely, announce at this time the current ratios. . . . The Administration should publish now what it is estimated the Soviets will have capable of launching against this country, compared with our like capability. . . .

"No amount of oratory can justify giving out misinformation."

## Dulles Testifies Today

Mr. Dulles was called to testify before the Senate Space Committee tomorrow. Senate Democratic leader Lyndon B. Johnson, Tex., chairman of the committee, said he wants to know why the on-launcher

figures were not known to Gen. Twining.

Sen. Dirksen told the Senate that President Eisenhower's careful approach to defense spending is so different from that advocated in 1952 by Sen. Symington, then just leaving the Administration of President Truman.

"You'd better be careful about throwing stones in this man's town in this political arena," Sen. Dirksen told Sen. Symington, "because the book will come back to haunt you someday."

In 1952, Sen. Dirksen said, Sen. Symington cautioned that defense spending had to be checked just like any other spending to avoid "leading the country into national bankruptcy."

"That is what the President

is saying now," Sen. Dirksen said.

The Republican leader also quoted Sen. Symington as saying in 1949 that the country must take care not to spend more for defense than it can afford.

"What do you think the President of the United States is trying to do?" Sen. Dirksen asked.

## Restraint Is Urged

The Senator appealed to his Democratic colleagues to show restraint in criticizing President Eisenhower's missile and space policies. He quoted from a Peiping radio broadcast in arguing that Communist propagandists are all too eager to seize on such disputes to make America look bad in the eyes of the world.